

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201398

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 2659 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS
TEL AVIV JERUSALEM AUGUST 19.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, UNSC, IS, XF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NEW ISRAELI
SETTLEMENTS

1. EGYPTIAN UN COUNSELOR HAGGAG TOLD USUN OFFICERS AUG 18
THAT ARAB GROUP WAS DIVIDED ON WHETHER TO ASK FOR A SECURITY
COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE AUG 17 GOI DECISION TO ESTABLISH THREE
NEW SETTLEMENTS ON THW WEST BANK. HAGGAG SAID THAT THE PLO AND
LIBYA WERE URGING THAT ARAB GROUP TO REQUEST THE SECURITY COUNCIL
TO CONVENE, WHILE EGYPT AND OTHERS PREFERRED TO TAKE A WAIT
AND SEE ATTITUDE. THE EGYPTIANS, HE SAID, WERE BEING CRITICIZED
BY THE MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF THE ARAB GROUP FOR NOT TAKING A
FIRMER STAND AGAINST ISRAELI ACTIVITY IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
EGYPT WAS WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE US POSITION WOULD BE BEFORE
DECIDING WHAT TO DO. HAGGAG ASKED US TO INFORM HIM OF THE
DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AND REACTIONS BEYOND SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT.

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2. AMB HERZOG TOLD USUN OFFICER AUG 18 THAT ISRAELI
MISSION SO FAR HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBILITY
OF ARAB GROUP REQUESTING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. HE
NOTED THAT SO FAR ARABS HAD ADOPTED LOW-KEY APPROACH TO
RECENT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DECISIONS (LEGITIMIZING EXIST-
ING SETTLEMENTS, EXTENDING ISRAELI SERVICES TO WEST
BANKERS) WHILE AWAITING OUTCOME OF SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST

CONSULTATIONS. HERZOG INTERPRETED LATEST GOI DECISION AS CONTINUATION OF BEGIN'S EFFORTS IN FIRST MONTHS IN OFFICE TO FULFILL CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT TO HIS CONSTITUENTS. MORE-OVER, HE NOTED NEW SETTLEMENTS WERE MILITARY NAHALS RATHER THAN CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS. HERZOG ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT CARTER AND BEGIN HAD SAID TO EACH OTHER ON SETTLEMENTS POLICY.

3. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S SPOKESMAN AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING SAID THAT SYG "REGRETS" THE ISRAELI DECISION. A DETAILED STATEMENT IS EXPECTED LATER TODAY.

4. COMMENT: HERZOG APPEARED SURPRISED BY THE LATEST GOI DECISION AND UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF HAVING TO TAKE UP THE ISSUE IN NEW YORK. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT HE IS HOPING THE ARABS CAN BE PERSUADED TO DEFER ANY SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL AFTER NEXT MONTH'S ROUND OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY.
YOUNG UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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